# International Outlook Special Focus - Caribbean

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## **Summary**

- 10-25% reduction in Q1-09 revenues
  - Affecting most major market flows
  - Fewer premium passengers and discretionary tourists
- Demand evaporation at the time of
  - 1. Unprecedented capacity growth
  - 2. Drive to long-haul luxury ("Flatter than flat flat bed")
  - 3. Relatively new industry widebody fleet
- Closest recent analytical parallel(s)
  - Trans-con market after tech-bubble burst
  - Japan-USA after Japanese bubble burst

# What if oil prices had stayed high?

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# When/How will it stop?

- When demand stabilizes (not "recovers")
  - Consumer confidence will fuel ethnic and discretionary tourist normalcy
  - Business traffic pick up will be much more gradual
- When remaining "old" capacity is retired
  - Older-767, older-747, MD11, A340, etc.
- When international failure/consolidation accelerates
  - Europe in high gear (Alitalia, Brussels, SAS, etc.)
  - Asia/Middle East TBD

Bottom hit - when "exuberance" gone

#### Is the Caribbean a Microcosm?

- No
  - Capacity growth ~flat over 5 years
  - No luxury products. Similar to US-domestic
  - Ethnic and tourist traffic
  - Uses narrow-body (redeployable) aircraft
- Jamaica is representative Caribbean market
  - Ethnic, tourist, business traffic
  - 65%-35% in USA vs Rest of World passenger mix
  - Rational competition
  - But victim of hotel building boom ("Vegas" effect)

How is Jamaica faring? Any implications?

#### **Jamaica**

- 15% revenue reduction observed in near term
- Non-tourism demand resiliant
  - Ethnic/Diaspora customers traveling at lower fares
  - Some demand weakness in business markets
- Big changes in tourist demand
  - "Flight to value" for tourists. Double-digit increases in charter+all-inclusive passengers
  - Primary driver is hotel cost at 4x air fares
- Lessons: Tried and tested solutions work!
  - Provide customers value for money
  - Have costs low enough to be able to fly ethnic markets

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#### Air Jamaica

## Changed conditions

- Tighter market and competition
- Transition from "National Champion" to stand-alone, profitable airline
- Be ready for privatization

### Response

- Eliminate flying (20%) in perpetually loss-making markets
- Increase asset utilization by 25%
- Get overhead in line with size
- Refocus on strength markets (ethnic/Diaspora)

#### **GOAL**

Break-even EBITDA in today's environment

#### Conclusion

- Cause of Global Crisis:
  - Build expensive assets
  - For temporarily wealthy customers
- Cause of Aviation Crisis SAME:
  - Too many new airplanes with luxury seating
  - For temporarily wealthy passengers
- Will the solutions will be the same?
  - No. Cannot print money or run deficits

Old-fashioned solution "Low Costs, High Value, Match Demand"

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